

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/066,647

Examiner

Philip S. Scuderi

Applicant(s)

BEAULIEU, DENIS

Art Unit

2153

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to communication filed on 06 February 2002.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-15.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 06 February 2002 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

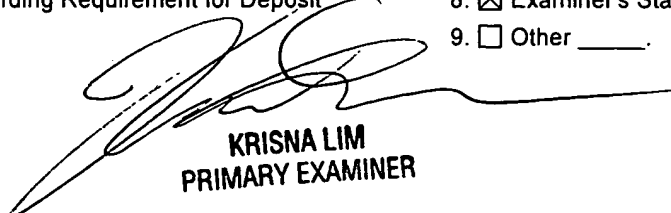
* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____


KRISNA LIM
PRIMARY EXAMINER

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Patrick Muldoon on April 8, 2005.

The application has been amended as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

- a. In claim 1, on line 12, after the word "nodes" insert the phrase --with the exception of the sending node--.
- b. In claim 1, on line 15, after the word "nodes" insert the phrase --with the exception of the sending node--.
- c. In claim 3, on line 1, replace the word "the" with the word --a--.
- d. In claim 5, on line 2, after the phrase "does not send or forward", delete the word "vote".
- e. In claim 6, on line 12, after the word "nodes" insert the phrase --with the exception of the sending node--.
- f. In claim 6, on line 15, after the word "nodes" insert the phrase --with the exception of the sending node--.
- g. In claim 9, on line 2, replace the phrase "an address of port" with the phrase --a port by--.
- h. In claim 12, on line 13, after the word "nodes" insert the phrase --with the exception of the sending node--.

Art Unit: 2153

- i. In claim 12, on line 15, after the word “nodes” insert the phrase --with the exception of the sending node--.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1-15 are allowed.

The prior art does not teach or would not have rendered the claimed invention obvious. While the prior art of record teaches detecting a changed in network topology and subsequently detecting a loop. It fails to support a method of loop detection and dissolution in a communications network, as claimed, having means for:

- sending a vote token from a detecting node to each neighbor node;
- receiving the vote token from the sending node at each of the neighbor nodes;
- forwarding the received vote token to all neighbor nodes, if the receiving node has the same or less neighbor nodes than the sending node; and
- sending a new vote token to all neighbor nodes if the receiving node has more neighbor than the sending node.

and:

- sending a vote token to all fully qualified neighbors of a node detecting a change in topology or external event;
- forwarding the received vote if the receiving node has the same or less fully qualified neighbors;
- sending a new vote token if the receiving node has more fully qualified neighbors; and
- detecting a loop once a vote token has returned back to the originating node.


Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Philip S. Scuderi whose telephone number is (571) 272-5865. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 8am-5pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Glenton B. Burgess can be reached on (703) 305-4792. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

PSS



KRISNA LIM
PRIMARY EXAMINER